

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

REF: CM -1337

THE POST HERewith PROPOSES FOR FUNDING UNDER THE AGENCY'S FY 76 BICENTENNIAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT A TEACHER EXCHANGE PROJECT DESIGNED TO INITIATE AND STRENGTHEN AMERICAN-SWEDISH INTERCHANGES IN A LARGELY NEGLECTED AREA WHERE THE REBUILDING OF TIE IS ESPECIALLY NEEDED AFTER THE END OF THE DIFFICULT YEARS IN SWEDISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IT IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO SWEDISH HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO TEACH ASPECTS OF AMERICAN CIVILIZATION TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES FIRST HAND WITH THE U.S. SCENE; AND GRANTS TO AMERICAN COLLEGE TEACHERS IN SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES TO VISIT SWEDEN AND EXPLORE ASPECTS OF SWEDISH CULTURE. WITHOUT THE FUNDS REQUESTED HERewith, ONLY THE SECOND PHASE (US TEACHERS TO SWEDEN) WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE SPONSORING INSTITUTION. THE PROJECT IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER THE BICENTENNIAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT RATHER THAN THROUGH CU PARTLY BECAUSE IN THE PRESENT STAGE OF SWEDISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS, THE PROJECT'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS SIGNIFICANCE IS AS IMPORTANT AS ITS EXCHANGE VALUE AND HENCE FITS WELL UNDER THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PURVIEWS OF THE FY 76 BPP, PARTLY BECAUSE CU FUNDS

AVAILABLE TO SWEDEN ARE REQUIRED FOR OTHER PROJECTS.

PROJECT DETAILS:

A) THE GRANT REQUESTED HERewith WOULD BE USED OVER A PERIOD OF THREE YEURS BUT SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A PUMP-PRIMING GRANT; I.E. IF THE PROJECT PROVES ITS WORTH, IT IS HOPED THAT SWEDISH FUNDS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO EXTEND IT. IT IS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR 3-4 SWEDISH TEACHERS TO VISIT THE U.S. ANNUALLY FOR FOUR MONTHS, AND TO 3-4 AMERICAN TEACHERS ANNUALLY TO STUDY SWEDISH CIVILIZATION IN SWEDEN FOR FOUR MONTHS. OF THE ESSENCE IS THE FACT THAT AT PRESENT NO PROGRAM EXISTS, EXCEPT THE AMERICAN HOST PROGRAM, WHICH OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO SWEDISH TEACHERS TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH AMERICA. CHARACTERISTIC FOR SWEDISH EDUCATION IS THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, MOST SWEDISH TEACHERS OF ENGLISH HAVE VISITED ENGLAND BUT ONLY VERY FEW HAVE BEEN IN AMERICA. THIS HAS AFFECTED THE TEACHING OF AMERICA SUBJECTS ADVERSELY.

B) THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION IS THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE, AN INDEPENDENT BUT GOS-FINANCED INSTITUTION FOUNDED IN 1945 TO PROMOTE CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN SWEDEN AND OTHER COUNTRIES. IT IS THE SWEDISH COUNTERPART TO THE BRITISH COUNCIL OR INTER NATIONES - A WELL ESTABLISHED, RELIABLE, SOLIDLY FUNDED, AND HIGHLY REGARDED INSTITUTION.

C) THE PROJECT WILL DEMONSTRATE TO THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY IN SWEDEN AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE THAT NEW CONSTRUCTIVE PATHS ARE BEING SOUGHT BY BOTH NATIONS TO STRENGTHEN SWEDISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND THAT THIS IS OCCURING IN AN AREA (EDUCATION) WHERE SENSITIVITIES ARE GREAT. MOREOVER, IT WILL STRENGTHEN, RENDER MORE ACCURATE AND POSITIVE, COMMUNICATION ABOUT AMERICA TRANSMITTED BY SWEDISH TEACHERS OF ENGLISH, CIVICS, AND HISTORY; AND IMPROVE THE TEACHING AND STUDY OF SCANDINAVIAN CIVILIZATION BY AMERICAN COLLEGE TEACHERS.

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D) THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SKR. 50,000 IN 1976 AND SIMILAR AMOUNTS IN 1977 AND 1978 FOR THE PROJECT. IN ADDITION, IT WILL BACKSTOP THE AMERICAN TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM AND HANDLE THE SELECTION OF THE SWEDISH PARTICIPANTS.

E) THE INSTITUTE HAS CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING PROJECTS OF THIS NATURE AND HAS GOOD CONTACTS

WITH A NUMBER OF U.S. ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS NEA, IIE
AND THE AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION, WHICH WILL
BE CALLED UPON TO ASSIST IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT.

F) THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS A NEW ACTIVITY. HOWEVER,
THE INSTITUTE HAS IN FORMER YEARS ADMINISTERED A PROGRAM
FOR AMERICAN SCHOLARS IN SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES. ALL STEPS
TAKEN TO DATE TOWARD ACTIVATING THE PROJECT ARE TENTATIVE.
NEVERTHELESS, THE INSTITUTE HAS OBTAINED AN INFORMAL
GUARANTEE THAT FUNDS FOR THE FIRST YEAR WILL BE MADE
AVAILABLE BY THE SWEDISH KENNEDY FUND. IT EXPECTS TO
RECEIVE THE REMAINING FUNDS FROM THE MINISTRY FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

G) NO GOE OR CU RESOURCES WILL BE NEEDED FOR SUPPORT
OF THE PROJECT.

H) NO SPECIAL AGENCY OR CU ASSISTANCE WILL BE NEEDED
TO DEVELOP THE PROJECT.

I) MINIMUM AGENCY FUNDING REQUEST: \$15,000.
MAXIMUM: \$35,000.
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